

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure currently of record with the attached new Abstract of the Disclosure.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the specification with a Substitute Specification attached herewith. No new matter is believed to have been added.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method for distributing a program code to a plurality of measuring instruments ~~(5-10)~~, each of which is measuring instrument being respectively coupled to a only one of at least one control computer ~~(2-4)~~ via a respective first bus ~~(20)~~, with each of the at least one control computers computer ~~(2-4)~~ being coupled to a central computer ~~(1)~~ via a second bus ~~(19)~~, the central computer ~~(1)~~ being coupled with at least one of a storage-medium reading device ~~(17)~~ and an inter-regional network ~~(25)~~, said method ~~having the following method steps comprising:~~

~~Supplying~~ supplying the program code to the central computer ~~(1)~~ by at least one of: placing a storage medium ~~(18)~~ on which the program code is stored in the storage-medium reading device ~~(17)~~ and transmitting the program code to the central computer ~~(1)~~ via the inter-regional network ~~(25)~~;

transmitting the program code from the central computer ~~(1)~~ via the second bus ~~(19)~~ to the at least one control computer ~~(2-4)~~; and

transmitting the program code from the at least one control computer ~~(2-4)~~, ~~that received the program code, via the first bus (20), to~~ a measuring instruments instrument ~~(5-10)~~ coupled to the at least one control computer.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the program code updates the firmware of the measuring routines of the measuring instruments (5-10)~~ further comprising:

updating a measuring routine of a firmware of the measuring instrument coupled to the at least one control computer.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first bus ~~(20)~~ is ~~one of a~~ measuring bus ~~and or~~ a serial interface.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the second bus ~~(19)~~ ~~in is~~ an intranet over which a ~~plurality of the at least one control computers~~ computer ~~(2-4)~~ ~~are is~~ coupled with the central computer ~~(1)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~program code is transmitted to the central computer (1) via the inter-regional network (25) and the inter-regional network (25) is the Internet.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~program code is supplied to the central computer (1) by placing the storage medium (18) on which the program code is stored in storage-medium reading device (17) is a CD-ROM reading device and the storage medium is a CD-ROM.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein a plurality of different types of measuring instruments (5, 7, 8, 10; 6, 9) are provided and a target address is contained in the program code which determines for which type of measuring instrument (5, 7, 8, 10; 6, 9) this program code is intended~~ further comprising:

determining for which type of a measuring instrument the program code is intended based on a target address contained in the program code.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein:~~

~~there are a plurality of control computers and a plurality of different types of measuring instruments (5, 7, 8, 10; 6, 9);~~

~~a list is stored in a memory (24) of the central computer (1) which catalogs to which of the control computers (2, 3, 4) the different types of measuring instruments (5, 7, 8, 10; 6, 9) are coupled; and~~

~~the central computer (1) transfers the program code via the second bus (19) only to the particular control computers (2, 3, 4) that are coupled with the type of measuring instrument (5, 7, 8, 10; 6, 9) for which the program code is targeted~~ further comprising:

mapping coupling information of each of the plurality of measuring instruments to the at least one control computer in a memory of the central computer; and

wherein in the step of transmitting the program code from the central computer to the at least one control computer, transmitting the program code based on a targeting information in the program code and the coupling information in the memory of the central computer.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein each control computer (2, 3, 4) transmits information to the central computer (1) via the second bus (19) from which is determined the type of measuring instruments (5, 7, 8, 10; 6, 9) coupled to the particular control computer (2, 3, 4)~~ further comprising:

transmitting from the at least one control computer to the central computer types of measuring instruments coupled to the at least one control computer.

10. (New) A system for distributing a program update, comprising:
 - a central computer configured to receive the program update;
 - a plurality of control computers connected to the central computer; and
 - a plurality of instruments, wherein
 - each instrument is coupled to only one of the plurality of control computers,
 - the central computer is configured to transfer the program update to one or more of the plurality of control computers, and
 - each of the plurality of control computers, upon receipt of the program update, is configured to transfer the program update to one or more of the instruments coupled to the control computer.
11. (New) The system of claim 10, wherein the central computer is configured to receive the program update through a memory media or through a network.
12. (New) The system of claim 10, wherein each instrument includes a local memory and the each of the plurality of control computers is configured to download the program update to the local memory of one or more of the instruments.
13. (New) The system of claim 10, wherein
 - the program update is intended for a particular type of an instrument, and

the central computer is configured to transfer the program update only to those control computers to which the intended type of instrument is coupled.

14. (New) The system of claim 13, wherein the central computer maintains information regarding instrument type and coupling of each of the plurality of instruments to the plurality of control computers.

15. (New) The system of claim 14, wherein each of the plurality of the control computers is configured to provide the central computer with information regarding instruments coupled the control computer.

16. (New) The system of claim 13, wherein the central computer is configured to determine the intended type of instrument for the program update based on an addressing information included in the program update.

17. (New) A method for distributing a program update, comprising:

receiving the program update through a central computer;

transferring the program update from the central computer to a plurality of control computers connected to the central computer; and

transferring the program update from the plurality of control computers to a plurality of instruments, wherein

each instrument is coupled to only one of the plurality of control computers.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of receiving the program update includes receiving the program update via reading a memory media or through a network.
19. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of transferring the program update to the plurality of instruments includes downloading the program update to a local memory of each of the instruments.
20. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the program update is intended for a particular type of an instrument, the method further comprising transferring the program update only to those control computers to which the intended type of instrument is coupled.
21. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising maintaining information regarding instrument type and coupling of each of the plurality of instruments to the plurality of control computers.
22. (New) The method of claim 20, determining the intended type of instrument for the program update based on an addressing information included in the program update.
23. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising executing the program code through the measuring instrument.

24. (New) The system of claim 10, wherein the program update is intended for execution by an updated instrument.

25. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising executing the program code through an updated instrument.